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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Abstract of replies received in reply to request for reports on influenza (la grippe).

[Continued from PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, Nos, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.]

FRANCE—*Marseilles*.—Replying to your communication of January 18, I have the honor to report that influenza or la grippe has been more or less prevalent in Marseilles since 1890. The number of cases was notably large from 1890 to 1895, since which time there has been a gradual decrease, and at the present time the malady does not occur often enough or in a form sufficiently severe to warrant any special consideration. During the past two weeks the weather has been very cold for this region, and as the houses are ill-adapted to low temperatures, there has been a sudden and notable increase in the number of cases, most of which, however, are of the benign type. Statistics as to the number of cases are not taken. No deaths from influenza were reported during the month of January. There are, however, many deaths the cause of which is not shown in the official reports, and one of my professional informants estimates deaths from this cause to be actually about 10 a month.

At this time the number of cases is decreasing, and the cases are so mild that the treatment generally prescribed is in the main, care against exposure, especially after sundown, exercise, and diet. The types of the disease as noted here are: (1) pectoral or pulmonary; (2) gastro-intestinal, slightly resembling typhoid fever, and (3), and very rarely, nervous, having some analogy to meningitis.

Paris.—No epidemic of la grippe prevails, but the disease has been present all winter, and it is necessary to go back well into last summer to find a week in which there was not at least 1 death reported from la grippe. An increase in the number of cases began to be marked early in December, 1900. The disease attacked the poor before the rich, and it was not until about February 1, 1901, that it appeared in private practice.

Catarrhal and pneumonic symptoms are the most common. Mortality is small and the cases are light. In general it can be said that the disease clinically had decreased steadily until 1889, when it raged as an epidemic disease in a nonimmune community. Since that period the violent contagion and the severe bulbar form with sudden prostration and vomiting are rarely seen. Treatment is symptomatic, but the coal-tar derivatives are not given as much as formerly.

GERMANY—*Barmen*.—Influenza or la grippe usually prevails in this country more or less every year in the beginning of autumn, lasting until about March, when it is generally most severe. The duration of the disease is usually several months. The number of cases is not

reported. The mortality is 85 in a population of 141,000. The number of deaths from la grippe in 1900 was 73.

Berlin.—Influenza first made its appearance in Berlin during the first week in November, and has prevailed with increasing severity till the present time, though there is at present evidence of its abating. Owing to the fact that influenza is not classed among the infectious diseases that require reporting, it is impossible to estimate the number of cases. The number of deaths due to influenza have occurred as follows: November, 10; December, 23; January, 39, and February, 67. The highest mortality occurred during the last week of February, when 20 deaths were reported as due to influenza. The type of the disease has been rather of the respiratory form, broncho-pneumonia being a fairly frequent complication. Much more seldom has the intestinal form of the disease occurred than in the epidemics of the previous year. It would seem from the present epidemic that no relation can be found between the prevalence of the epidemic and the meteorological conditions. In the epidemic of one year ago some effort was made to show that the severity of influenza was due largely to the number of cloudy and rainy days. This year, which has been just as remarkable for the number of cold, clear days, shows little improvement in the influenza epidemic. The health authorities of Berlin regard it as a true infectious disease, and not materially influenced by the weather conditions. It is carried from one city to another in the course of travel.

No specific has been found for the treatment of influenza, though the remedy most generally used in Berlin is salipyrine. It is given in 0.5 gram ($7\frac{1}{2}$ grains) doses about every four hours. With this is frequently combined 0.2 gram (3 grains) of sulphate of quinine.

Hamburg.—Since 1889-90 la grippe has never become extinct. The number of cases is not reported. The type is catarrhal with tolerably severe general infection. Deaths are rare and generally occur in old and very weak persons.

Mainz.—There have been relatively few cases of influenza here this winter. The disease made its appearance between December 1 and 15, 1900. There have been only 5 deaths due to la grippe.

Stuttgart.—There are no evidences of an epidemic of la grippe in this city or kingdom.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England—Bristol.*—Influenza is not prevalent in this consular district.

London.—Influenza is not known to prevail to an unusual extent at present in England. Influenza not being a notifiable disease, the number of cases is not known. In London, for the week ended March 2, there were 35 deaths attributed directly to this disease as against 12, 16, and 32 in the three preceding weeks. The increase in the number of deaths may be partly attributed to the weather conditions, which were very wet and cold.

Liverpool.—During the last six months the city has been practically

free from influenza; but it made its appearance a few weeks ago, and since the date of its reappearance (about January 5) there have been 27 deaths caused by it. The cases are treated by medical men upon the usual principles.

IRELAND—*Dublin*.—The following table shows the number of deaths from influenza for the twenty-four weeks ended March 16, 1901, and the average for the corresponding weeks for the past ten years:

Week ended.	Deaths.	Average(a).	Week ended.	Deaths.	Average(b).
1900.			1901.		
October 6.....		0.5	January 5.....		5.2
October 13.....		1.1	January 12.....	2	8.2
October 20.....		0.8	January 19.....	3	7.9
October 27.....	5	0.9	January 26.....	3	9.2
November 3.....	1	1.0	February 2.....	3	7.3
November 10.....	1	0.7	February 9.....	5	5.4
November 17.....		1.2	February 16.....	6	6.8
November 24.....		1.6	February 23.....	4	6.5
December 1.....	1	1.3	March 2.....	16	4.6
December 8.....	2	2.4	March 9.....	16	4.9
December 15.....		2.7	March 16.....	14	6.1
December 22.....	1	3.3			
December 29.....		4.4			

a Number of deaths from influenza in the corresponding week of ten years, 1890-1899.

b Number of deaths from influenza in the corresponding week of ten years, 1891-1900.

SCOTLAND—*Glasgow*.—Cases of influenza are rarely dealt with in this country by any sanitary administration. In the earlier years of this decade, when influenza was more prevalent, certain cases were isolated in hospital, but that was rather with the view of treatment where the home conditions were unfavorable.

Year—	Death rate per 100,000.	Year—	Death rate per 100,000.
1896.....	6	1899.....	22
1897.....	12	1900.....	27
1898.....	15		

HAWAII—*Honolulu*.—The actual number of cases can not be ascertained. The disease made its appearance on or about January 30, 1901. The number of cases was not very large and the form of the disease not severe. In a population of about 40,000, only 3 deaths are reported as due to la grippe, 2 of persons over 70 years of age, and 1, 43 years of age.

Kauai—Kealia.—La grippe is not known in the northern part of this island. It has been diagnosed in a few instances in the southern part of the island.

Kauai—Waimea.—No cases of influenza or la grippe known to be present.

Molokai—Kalawao.—Influenza or la grippe does not prevail in this locality.

Naalchu—Kau.—Influenza or la grippe does not prevail in this locality. During the summer and early fall of the year 1900, there were 300 cases in a community numbering 4,000.

North Kona Island—Kailua.—Twenty-seven cases of la grippe are reported. The majority were of the respiratory type and all recovered.

Wailuku—Maui.—No influenza or la grippe reported in this district.

HOLLAND—Amsterdam.—Influenza does not prevail here, nor has it prevailed during the entire winter. In 1900 influenza was epidemic here as in London.

ITALY—Naples.—Influenza does not prevail in this locality. There have been a few mild cases which could nearly all be traced to New York and usually occurred among the cabin passengers on the incoming steamships. There has been no mortality and no spread of the disease.

Trapani.—Influenza has not appeared here this year.

MALTA.—Thirty cases of influenza were reported in these islands during the month of February last. Undoubtedly there were other cases, but hardly enough to constitute an epidemic such as we had during last March. The disease seems to have appeared here early in the month above named—earlier than last year. The few cases reported were so mild that no sanitary measures were taken. The treatment adopted was simply by diaphoretics and especially salicylate of soda.

A case of smallpox at Louisville, Ky.

LOUISVILLE, KY., April 7, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report the admission to relief of Seaman William Martin on April 5, suffering with smallpox. Said seaman applied for relief from some other complaint, but, on examination after entrance, was found to be convalescent from smallpox, evidently from a very mild attack. He was isolated on the premises, and those who had been exposed to him were vaccinated and reported to the municipal authorities. He was taken to the eruptive hospital the next day.

A telegram has been sent to Cincinnati, where the boat now is from which he came.

Respectfully,

H. R. CARTER,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

A case of smallpox in Charleston, S. C.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 8, 1901.

SIR: A case of smallpox (the steward of the revenue cutter *Forward*) was detected at this office to-day, and turned over to the city health authorities after formal admission as patient of the service under the contract. The patient, a negro man, had been sick at his home ashore for several weeks (three, he states), unattended by a physician. He had not made application for treatment from this service before to-day. The eruption was pretty well dried then. He had gone aboard the cutter to return to duty, when the officer there sent him to the Marine Hospital office, with a certificate of service, for treatment. He was aboard the vessel for about twenty minutes (to-day) he states. All precautions to avoid spread of the infection, both at the office and aboard the vessel, were taken.

Respectfully,

JNO. VANSANT,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.